



**Decision Notice**  
**Fairweather Fishing Access Site: Wildlife Enhancement Lease-Out**  
**Environmental Assessment**

Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
April 9, 2010

**Proposed Action**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to renew an existing wildlife agricultural lease at Fairweather Fishing Access Site for an additional 10 years.

**Alternative Considered**

Under no action, the lease expires and FWP would lose the agricultural plots that provide food and shelter for pheasants and other wildlife. Discontinuation could also lead to spread of noxious weeds in these previously farmed areas as FWP does not have the staff resources to undertake or manage farming activity on this property.

**Montana Environmental Policy Act**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on March 15, 2010.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken for 15 days (through April 1, 2010). The EA was mailed to 10 adjacent landowners and 8 other interested parties; legal notices were printed in the *Townsend Star* and the *Bozeman Chronicle*; and the Draft EA was posted on the FWP webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices/>.

**Summary of Public Comment**

One written comment was received during the public comment period, which was in support of the proposed action because it was great way to enhance bird habitat at basically no cost to the State.

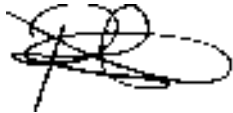
**Final Environmental Assessment for the Fairweather Fishing Access Site Wildlife Enhancement Lease-Out**

There are no modifications necessary to the Draft Environmental Assessment based on public comment. The Draft Environmental Assessment, together with this Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

**Decision**

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and the need to continue the share-crop agricultural use in the Fairweather Fishing Access Site for wildlife benefits (70% of production is harvested, 30% is unharvested to provide benefit to wildlife as food and cover), it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, described in the EA as Alternative B.

I find there no significant impacts on the human and physical environments associated with this project. Therefore, I conclude that the Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



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Patrick J. Flowers  
Region Three Supervisor

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